

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SCEM-02 INT-08 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /165 W
----- 053490

R 211833Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5751

UNCLAS LONDON 13638

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK, PINT

SUBJECT: MINE WORKERS REJECT LATEST COAL BOARD OFFER

REF: LONDON 13483

1. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINE WORKERS (NUM) MET TODAY, NOVEMBER 21, AND DECIDED TO REJECT THE MOST RECENT OFFER OF THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD, THUS CONTINUING THE NUM BAN ON OVERTIME WORK.

2. THE COAL BOARD OFFERED A PAY-FRinge PACKAGE WHICH COULD HAVE RESULTED ULTIMATELY IN A 16-1/2 PERCENT PAY-FRinge BENEFIT WAGE PACKAGE. THE COAL BOARD HAD ALSO PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION OF WAGES WHICH WOULD HAVE BENEFITED LOWER PAID WORKERS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE HIGHER PAID WORKERS; THIS, TOO WAS REJECTED.

3. IN ANNOUNCING THE REJECTION NUM PRESIDENT JOE GORMLEY SAID THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DID NOT THINK THE TIME WAS RIGHT FOR A SECRET BALLOT ON THE COAL BOARD'S OFFER. HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THE MINERS "ARE DETERMINED THEY WILL GO TO A BALLOT AT A TIME WHEN THEY THINK THE CLIMATE IS RIGHT AND MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF THE
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POSITION, AND NOT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PRESS SAY

IT IS RIGHT." HE ADDED THAT THE NUM LEADERSHIP TOOK ITS DECISION UNANIMOUSLY BECAUSE THE BASIC WAGE OFFER WAS INADEQUATE "TO ATTRACT MANPOWER BACK TO THE COAL INDUSTRY."

4. COMMENT: THE DECISION OF THE NUM TO CONTINUE THE BAN AND TO POSTPONE A SECRET BALLOT ON THE MOST RECENT COAL BOARD OFFER WILL CLEARLY DEEPEN THE ENERGY CRISIS, AS COAL STOCKS CONTINUE TO BE DEPLETED.

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, WAGES, LABOR DISPUTES, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON13638
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731120/aaaaaond.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LONDON 13483
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <21-Aug-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINE WORKERS REJECT LATEST COAL BOARD OFFER
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005